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Pipilo maculatus falcifer. San Francisco Towhee. Noted on the upper slopes of Santa Lucia Peak and commonly all over the coastal slopes. Is a common resident.

Pipilo crissalis crissalis. California Brown Towhee. Rather common bird throughout the region in both the Upper Sonoran and Transition zones.

Passerina amoena. Lazuli Bunting. Noted at Jolon and on the coastal slopes where it was often seen in the dryer brush patches. Jenkins speaks of it as rather more common than we observed it to be.

Zamelodia melanocephala capitalis. Pacific Black-headed Grosbeak. Noted on the upper slopes of Santa Lucia Peak and in the pine forests along the summit of the coastal mountains at the head of Big Creek. Jenkins met it commonly in many localities.

Passer domesticus. English Sparrow. A common bird around the little town of Jolon, though not noted away from settlements.

The following list of the winter visitors noted on the winter trip of Pemberton and Anderson gives a further idea of the character of the region.

Sphyrapicus varius ruber or **daggetti.** Red-breasted Sapsucker.

Planesticus migratorius propinquus. Western Robin.

Ixoreus naevius naevius. Varied Thrush.

Regulus calendula grinnelli. Sitka Kinglet.

Sialia currucoides. Mountain Bluebird.

Anthus rubescens. American Pipit.

Bombycilla cedrorum. Cedar Waxwing.

Dendroica townsendi. Townsend Warbler.

Sayornis sayus. Say Phoebe.

Passerculus sandwichensis sandwichensis. Western Savannah Sparrow.

Zonotrichia coronata. Golden-crowned Sparrow.

Passerella iliaca iliaca. Fox-colored Sparrow. (See CONDOR, x, p. 50.)

Passerella iliaca meruloides. Yakutat Fox Sparrow.

San Francisco, June 6, 1915.

FROM FIELD AND STUDY

Range of the California Clapper Rail.—While reading recently Mr. Wells W. Cooke's excellent bulletin on the North American Rails (Bull. U. S. Dept. Agric. no. 128), my attention was attracted to the fact that the range of the California Clapper Rail (*Rallus obsoletus*) as given in this bulletin was very much circumscribed and did not include the sloughs radiating from Monterey Bay.

It is a well known fact among working ornithologists in this immediate section that Elkhorn Slough, Tembladero Slough, and other salt water marshes tributary to Monterey Bay are regularly but rather sparingly inhabited by these birds. They are constant residents of the sections that they frequent. My friend, Mr. A. G. Vrooman of Santa Cruz, has a set of eggs taken a few years ago by his son near Elkhorn, Monterey County, —a small siding on the line of the Southern Pacific Railroad. Eggs have also been taken near the same place by Mr. Thomas Hudson of Watsonville.

These records extend the range of this Rail some eighty miles to the south and, taken in connection with the Humboldt records of this bird as given by Mr. Tracy I. Storer in the CONDOR for March, 1915, give it a considerably wider range than would seem to be indicated in Mr. Cooke's bulletin.—O. P. SILLIMAN, *Castroville, California.*

Bird-study Out-of-doors in European Schools.—The Sacramento Chamber of Commerce City Planning Committee brought here, Dr. Hegemann, German City Planning Expert. He suggested obtaining a volunteer to study European City Planning, including nature study methods. This citizen brought from Europe some interesting photographs. The one presented herewith (fig. 70) shows the Royal Hunting Lodge in the Copenhagen Deer Park, with blind school students enjoying a nature study outing.

The report states that nature study field excursions in Europe are as far in advance

of America as Europe is behind us in playground work. Field trips are utilized in many kinds of school work. In Switzerland, children are taught history on the battlefields. Sempach, Morgarten, the struggle of their ancestors against the Hapsburgs, are more than mere printed words.

These outings are especially utilized in nature study, in acquainting the children with the wild life. Thus, the blind child can be taught the bird songs even though he cannot see the songster. With ears made more sensitive by his affliction he may, because of the very pathos of his affliction, become a wonderfully effective missionary for conservation.

In Holland the outdoor school excursion is linked with the local museum existing in



Fig. 70. BLIND SCHOOL PUPILS ENJOYING A NATURE-STUDY OUTING IN A DEER PARK IN COPENHAGEN

almost every village. Wooden-shoed children early in life are banded into what in America would be Audubon Societies. They are systematically taught to love, not to destroy.

Switzerland is so thoroughly organized and game so plentiful that venison is served regularly on the Government dining cars. You may be greeted by the Swiss who happens to be at your table with: "You are guests of our Government. We give you something unknown on American diners, fresh venison. Because of its youth, your country ought to have more than an older civilization like ours."

Europe's secret seems to be the forming of conservation habits while the child mind is plastic.—C. M. GOETHE, *Sacramento, California*.

Scissor-tailed Flycatcher in Southern California.—Dr. I. D. Nokes of this city has recently submitted to me for identification a specimen of the Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Muscivora forficata*) collected by himself, with the added request that I place on record a statement regarding the capture of the bird. It was taken on June 26, 1915, in the northern part of Los Angeles County, on the road to Elizabeth Lake, at a point a little to the north of Boquet Canyon. The bird, flitting from fence-post to fence-post along the road, was first observed by Mrs. Nokes as something out of the ordinary, and she pointed it out to her husband, who promptly secured it. The specimen, in the flesh, was turned over to Dr. J. Hornung, employed as taxidermist in this Museum, who made it into a study skin for Dr. Nokes, together with the rest of the birds collected by him on that day.

The flycatcher on dissection proved to be a male, though in its small size, relatively short tail, and lack of concealed red crown spot, it has much the appearance of a female. Though adult it was evidently not a breeding bird. The plumage is rather worn, though not excessively so. On the top of the head, between the eyes, is a partly healed injury, such a wound as might be caused by flight against a telegraph wire or some such obstruction.

The capture of this individual adds a new species to the list of California birds, but in what sense this addition should be made is a matter in which opinions will probably differ. That it can be considered an extension of range, merely the wandering of an individual somewhat beyond the normal confines of the species as known at present, and consequently an occurrence the repetition of which may be confidently expected in the future, seems to me a matter of some doubt. I do not regard the capture in California of this Scissor-tailed Flycatcher as comparable to the previously recorded instances of such rarities as the Eastern Kingbird, Eastern Phoebe, Oven-bird, Magnolia Warbler, and certain others. The occurrence of individuals of these several species, as regards season of capture, known range of the forms, usual migration route, etc., may be regarded, though certainly extraordinary, as explicable as the voluntary actions of normal, unconfined individuals of the several species of birds. This Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, it seems to me, belongs rather in the category of "accidentals" which are regarded with some suspicion as introductions directly due to human agency, fortuitous or intentional.

I do not mean to suggest by this that it is necessarily an escaped caged bird, for the species is obviously not one to endure captivity. Mr. F. S. Daggett has suggested one possible means of introduction that certainly seems worthy of consideration, namely, by accidental captivity within a box car used in transporting live stock. The swarms of flies in such a place would afford attraction to a bird of this species, and the distance between the place of capture and the nearest point in the known habitat of the species is not so great but what the bird might easily survive the trip. This is not put forward as an absolute explanation of the happening, but merely as one way in which it might have been brought about. The partly healed injury on the head of the bird certainly suggests some abnormality in the occurrence.—H. S. SWARTH, *Museum of History, Science and Art, Los Angeles, California.*

Supposed New Records for Santa Cruz Island.—Through the courtesy of our distinguished fellow-member, Mr. Joseph Mailliard, and his friend, Mr. Arturo Caire, one of the present owners of Santa Cruz Island, I was permitted to spend nearly three weeks, viz., April 3rd to 22nd, with my son William, on this enchanted spot. We made camp at Prisoners Harbor and devoted ourselves chiefly to a study of the endemic Jay, *Aphelocoma insularis*, of which sixteen nests were found. Besides this we found time to make several excursions into the interior of the island, and one to the west end. A horizon of eighty species resulted, and of these, fifteen appear not to have been previously reported, viz.:

Gavia immer. Loon. A full-plumaged adult was sighted at Prisoners Harbor on the 14th and appeared several times thereafter at near ranges. Four others were seen close inshore on the south side of the island on April 19. There has been an unusual number of Loons, both senescent adults and non-breeding immatures, in the Santa Barbara channel and its tributary lagoons during this past season.

Gavia stellata. Red-throated Loon. A single individual in partial summer moult, first observed on the 9th, was repeatedly seen at Prisoners Harbor.

Colymbus auritus. Horned Grebe. A pair of these birds in semi-breeding plumage haunted Prisoners Harbor throughout the interval of our stay. Toward the last there were increasing signs of mating interest.

Chen hyperboreus hyperboreus. Lesser Snow Goose. Two winged birds are kept in an enclosure at the main ranch. These were obtained about a year ago, according to Messrs. Revell and Luchelli, from flocks which numbered thousands.

Larus argentatus. Herring Gull. Two birds were found associating with Westerns and Californias at the West ranch on April 13.

Asyndesmus lewisi. Lewis Woodpecker. A single bird haunted the roof of an old barn near the main ranch on April 4. He was not again seen.

Planesticus migratorius propinquus. Western Robin. Several Robins were seen in a group of oak trees southeast of the main ranch,—for the last time on April 11.

Ixoreus naevius naevius. Varied Thrush. A single bird flushed in the chaparral at close range on April 5, and another was sighted on the day following.

Bombycilla cedrorum. Cedar Waxwing. A flock of about forty birds appeared on the 11th near our camp, and they fed upon the berries of the Christmas Holly, *Heteromeles arbutifolia*, for a week or more thereafter.

Vireosylva gilva swainsoni. Western Warbling Vireo. A single male was heard singing in the Valle Centrale on Easter Sunday, April 4.

Dendroica nigrescens. Black-throated Gray Warbler. Two singing males just arrived from the south were picked up in a little canyon near the Sul ranch on the 19th.

Xanthocephalus xanthocephalus. Yellow-headed Blackbird. Mr. Luchelli has an undated specimen, a male, which he took near the main ranch last year.

Spinus pinus pinus. Pine Siskin. Several times encountered in the Monterey pine belt, where it probably breeds.

Zonotrichia leucophrys nuttalli. Nuttall Sparrow. A certain proportion of crown sparrows seen at the west end of the island were of the "small black" type, unmistakable *nuttalli*.

Passer domesticus. English Sparrow. Woe the day! I could hardly believe my ears, at first, when the stridor of this ancient vermin assaulted them from the peak of a warehouse roof at Prisoners Harbor. The single bird, a female, sighted early in the morning of the 18th, had, possibly, just arrived from the mainland shore 25 miles distant. No others were seen during our stay.—WILLIAM LEON DAWSON, *Santa Barbara, California, July 30, 1915.*

A Foe of Johnson Grass.—On the afternoon of July 9, while busy digging out Johnson grass along a line fence, I was startled by an unusual bird song, and looking up I beheld a male Blue Grosbeak who sang between meals as he swayed on the pendant ripening heads of this obnoxious grass. This was the only bird of any species that I have observed feeding to any considerable extent on this altogether too abundant food supply. One would have thought to see him work that he, too, had heard the order of the horticultural commissioner. If "By their fruits ye shall know them", applies to birds also, then the farmer certainly ought to chalk down at least one big round credit for the Blue Grosbeak.—JOSEPH DIXON, *Escondido, California.*

Fork-tailed Petrels Delayed by Storm.—The heavy windstorm of April 29 and 30 along the California coast caught many of the northern birds migrating, and its effect in delaying the northward movement was very evident.

On the evening of April 30 my son Edmund, who attends school at Monterey, brought me a Fork-tailed Petrel (*Oceanodroma furcata*) which was still alive. This bird had been procured from a flock estimated at about two hundred birds that was stranded along the beach between the Monterey wharf and the Del Monte bath house. The birds appeared lost and helpless in the 60 or 70 mile gale that was raging, and could fly only short distances, when they would again alight on the beach.

Additional evidence on the effect of the storm on this species was found on May 9, when a dead Fork-tailed Petrel was picked up along the beach at Moss near the center of the semi-circle formed by Monterey Bay, and several miles out of the migrating route of most pelagic species.—O. P. SILLIMAN, *Castroville, California.*

The House Finch Again.—A further instance of the Linnet (*Carpodacus mexicanus frontalis*) occupying the nest of another bird was observed by me on May 31st last. A

cottonwood stub was found in the Santa Anita Canyon containing two old woodpecker holes some ten feet from the ground. The Linnets had originally intended to occupy the upper "flat", but for some reason had abandoned it and had moved below. The cavity was nearly filled with the nesting materials, the five eggs being but about one inch below the level of the entrance; the latter was one and one-half inches in diameter. The excavation was eight inches deep and four in diameter.—D. I. SHEPARDSON, *Los Angeles, California*.

Late Nesting of the Townsend Solitaire.—On July 16, 1915, I discovered a nest of the Townsend Solitaire (*Myadestes townsendi*) on Bear Creek, in Plumas County about two miles west of the north end of Gold Lake. The nest was built of weed stems and was placed in a crevice of a rock along side of a small waterfall. It was so situated that overhanging and projecting rock sheltered it on all sides except one. Three eggs were in the nest and on July 22 they were still unhatched. The sitting bird was flushed several times. She remained in the near vicinity and each time was soon joined by her mate. Neither bird made the slightest noise; nor was the male bird heard singing although our camp was only twenty yards from the nest. This appears to be the latest recorded nesting date for this species.—H. C. BRYANT, *Berkeley, California*.

A Notable Occurrence of Pacific Divers.—On the 13th of April, 1915, during the prevalence of a strong west wind at Santa Cruz Island, I came upon a company of at least 200 Pacific Loons (*Gavia pacifica*) breasting the storm and fishing in the outer surf just off a bold cliff near the West ranch. Fully half of the birds were in spring plumage, and they afforded a magnificent spectacle, something in the nature of a naval review, as they rode bow on to the weather or else submarined in relays after smelt. The fleet of divers turned watchful periscopes toward the skyline, and I was obliged to retire behind a parapet of grass before they would relax their vigilance.—W. LEON DAWSON, *Santa Barbara, California*.

Late Migration of the Cedar Waxwing.—On June 20, 1914, my brother, W. G. Silliman of Salinas, had occasion to stay for the night at Bradley, a small town near the southern boundary of Monterey County. While taking a short walk after dinner his attention was attracted by fourteen strange birds perched upon a small cottonwood tree and the fences nearby. While not an ornithologist my brother is fairly familiar with our local birds, yet could not name these. Upon being shown specimens of about twenty birds, he immediately picked out a Cedar Waxwing (*Bombycilla cedrorum*) as being the same as the birds seen at Bradley. He says that there can be no doubt as to their identity. Judging from their actions they were migrants instead of resident birds. I have no winter records for this bird at this particular locality.—O. P. SILLIMAN, *Castroville, California*.

Western Gull and Arctic Tern: Corrections of Records.—Through a fortunate accident I was recently able to prevent the published repetition of certain erroneous printed statements concerning the Western Gull (*Larus occidentalis*) and the Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*) in southern California, and the incident suggested the desirability of publishing corrections of the mistaken records.

Western Gull. In a list of birds from the vicinity of Los Angeles published some years ago by myself (CONDOR, II, 1900, p. 14) I included this species as occasionally common during the winter, a statement which I am now satisfied was absolutely a mistake. The point at which these observations were made is some fifteen miles from the ocean. Along the nearby ocean beaches *Larus occidentalis* is probably the most abundant species of gull; so, seeing gulls flying overhead frequently, and occasionally alighting, I included this species as a matter of course. No specimen of *occidentalis* was secured, the few gulls shot proving to be *argentatus*, and I have never, at that time or since, had any evidence of the occurrence of *occidentalis* so far from the sea. *Larus delawarensis* is quite common inland in southern California, as in all probability *L. californicus* is also, and I have frequently seen the Herring Gull (*L. argentatus*) on the uplands of Los Angeles County at sufficiently close range to render identification certain, but I have never observed *occidentalis* under such conditions.

It may seem a trivial matter to make a correction of range involving a matter of only fifteen miles, in a species as wide ranging as the Western Gull, but the point is that the bird is evidently strictly a maritime and littoral species, seldom or never wandering far from the sea. As my own published statement seems to be the only definite one ascribing the bird to an inland point in southern California, and as I have for years been satisfied of its inaccuracy, it seems advisable that a correction be made.

Common Tern. Willett (Pacific Coast Avifauna, no. 7, 1912, p. 16) has recorded the Artic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*) from Los Angeles County on the basis of three specimens collected by Mr. F. S. Daggett (see CONDOR, v, 1903, p. 17) and one by myself. Having recent occasion to refer to my specimen I found that it was the Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*), and labelled as such. Just how the mistake arose, I do not know. Discovery of this mistake induced me to examine Mr. Daggett's three specimens, and these, too, are unmistakably *Sterna hirundo*.

This removes a species from our southern California list, for there is no other record of *S. paradisaea* for this region. With little doubt, however, it does occur, at least occasionally, along our seacoast.—H. S. SWARTH, *Museum of History, Science and Art, Los Angeles, California*.

Bluebird Nesting in Low Country.—Dr. L. H. Miller's note in the last CONDOR anent the breeding of the Western Bluebird (*Sialia mexicana occidentalis*) reminds me of two similar instances that I noted this spring. On April 25 I found an uncompleted nest in a white oak near Arcadia, containing two fresh eggs. On May 13 a pair had a nest with three eggs in a willow tree at the entrance to Griffith Park near the Los Angeles River. I have often noted the birds in this vicinity during the breeding season. This species seems much more common lately near the city of Los Angeles than in former years.—D. I. SHEPARDSON, *Los Angeles, California*.

California Pine Grosbeak in Mono County, and Other Notes.—While descending a small branch valley of Mammoth Pass, southern Mono County, California, July 31, 1914, I flushed a pair of California Pine Grosbeaks (*Pinicola enucleator californica*) that was feeding on the ground beside a stream at an altitude of about 9500 feet. The brightly colored male flew into a pine tree, where I shot him, but the female disappeared far up the mountain side. On August 5, while armed only with a light fly-rod, I spent five minutes watching another male that was feeding on the tender tips of a small spruce near me, at, I should say, an elevation of 9000 feet. As far as I am aware, this subspecies has never before been taken so far south.

While passing the dairy corral of a neighbor near Covina, Los Angeles County, April 29, 1915, a male Dwarf Cowbird (*Molothrus ater obscurus*) flew up on the fence within fifteen feet of me and remained several minutes before returning to the ground farther away. By the time I had fetched my gun, he had disappeared. My chance for observing him was too good for there to have been a mistake in identity.

I placed two bales of hay in the shade of a large orange tree six weeks ago. Upon removing these June 18 I found that a pair of Valley Quail (*Lophortyx californica valli-cola*) had taken possession of them. The bales were one on top of the other and merely in the shade of the tree without any dense protection of surrounding growth such as these birds usually demand, but there was a deep hollow formed in the straw of the top bale some four feet above the ground, and in this were three fresh eggs.

The White-tailed Kite (*Elanus leucurus*) is now so rare in our southland that it seems advisable to record one which I saw June 2, 1914, some two miles from El Monte, Los Angeles County. I was hunting in a grassy marsh all day and came quite close to the bird several times, once as near as a hundred yards. I hunted diligently for a nest or young, but I believe it likely that this was merely a lone individual. About a week later A. van Rossem visited this spot and noted what was undoubtedly the same bird.—A. BRAZIER HOWELL, *Covina, California*.

A New Bird for the Pacific Slope of Southern California.—Recently there came into my possession a Great Horned Owl that seemed much lighter in coloration than the horned owls I had seen from this locality. The bird was found dead at the mouth of San Antonio Canyon, Los Angeles County, elevation about 2000 feet, on January 10, 1915, by a Mr. Forbes of this place. The bird was sent to Mr. Grinnell for his opinion as to its

identification, and he pronounced it *Bubo virginianus pallescens*. To quote: "The Owl I consider to be *Bubo virginianus pallescens*, as it is very similar to specimens we have here from the Colorado Desert." To make more certain Mr. Grinnell advised that I send the bird to Mr. H. C. Oberholser at Washington. Mr. Oberholser writes: "It seems to be undoubtedly *Bubo virginianus pallescens*, though certainly from an unexpected locality." The bird is now no. 692 coll. W. M. P.; unsexed, though probably a female, because of its large size.—WRIGHT M. PIERCE, Claremont, California.

Limicoline Laggards at Santa Barbara.—The old declaration, the exception proves the rule, will not, of course, bear the test of a rigid logic; but unseasonable records have a fascination for most of us quite out of proportion to their real value. The following records, taken chiefly by Commander and Mrs. H. E. Parmenter at Santa Barbara this past June, prove no rules, but they do serve to establish a presumption that laggards of almost any species of shorebirds may be found stumbling along in the wake of the main host. Non-breeding birds do not refuse altogether to obey the migration impulse, but they may yield only a partial obedience to its behests, and they exhibit every degree of failure in the realization of the high goal. Only two of the species given below, the Sanderling and the Black-bellied Plover, rest solely on my own observation. For the rest we are indebted to Mr. and Mrs. Parmenter, both for painstaking research and for permission to publish.

Recurvirostra americana. Avocet. One at La Patera, June 1, 1915.

Himantopus mexicanus. Black-necked Stilt. One at the Estero, Santa Barbara, June 12.

Ereunetes mauri. Western Sandpiper. One at La Patera, June 1; one at Sandyland, June 9.

Calidris leucophaea. Sanderling. Twelve at Sandyland, June 5.

Limosa fedoa. Marbled Godwit. Two at Sandyland, June 4; five on June 9.

Totanus melanoleucus. Greater Yellowlegs. One at Estero, S. B., June 7.

Catoptrophorus semipalmatus inornatus. Western Willet. One at La Patera, June 1; one at Sandyland, June 9; one, June 25.

Numenius americanus. Long-billed Curlew. Six at Sandyland, June 4.

Numenius hudsonicus. Jack Curlew. Thirty at Sandyland, June 4; thirteen on June 9; eleven, June 25; one at Goleta, June 30.

Squatarola squatarola. Black-bellied Plover. Two birds in winter plumage at the mouth of Romero Creek, June 5.

Oxyechus vociferus vociferus. Killdeer. Sparingly resident.

Aegialitis nivosa. Snowy Plover. Resident at La Patera and Sandyland.

Aphriza virgata. Surf-bird. Two at mouth of Romero Creek, June 4.

Arenaria melanocephala. Black Turnstone. One at Romero, June 7.—WILLIAM LEON DAWSON, Santa Barbara, California, July 30, 1915.

Another Mexican Ground Dove for California, and Other Notes.—In a small but select and excellently prepared collection of mounted birds belonging to my friend, Mr. Ashley Walker of Salinas, the following seem worthy of record.

A Mexican Ground Dove (*Chaemepelia passerina pallescens*), picked up dead from the lawn in front of a farm house in the Blanco district near here. This was in the middle of June, 1913.

A Fulvous Tree-Duck (*Dendrocygna bicolor*), taken in November, 1910, from a salt pond near Graves, a small siding on the railroad just north of Salinas. This makes the third record for Monterey County so far as I am aware.

A Black Tern (*Hydrochelidon nigra surinamensis*), taken from a nesting colony at Merritt Lake near Castroville.

A Wood Duck (*Aix sponsa*), taken October 20, 1908, from the Tembledero Slough near Castroville. This bird is becoming so rare that this occurrence seems to merit recording.—O. P. SILLIMAN, Castroville, California.